

10TH GRADE SUMMER READING 2021

Summer reading for 10th grade English II will consist of 2 assignments. Both assignments apply to the same book. Please read all directions carefully! Summer reading is due on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! Contact me at cburnette@bullochacademy.com with any questions.

Bleachers by John Grisham: High school All-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty. As Coach Rake's 'boys' sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake – or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, still struggling to come to terms with his explosive relationship with the Coach, his dreams of a great career in the NFL, and the choices he made as a young man, the stakes could not be higher.

Assignment #1: Characterization

As you read *Bleachers*, look closely at the major characters. An author develops a character through the character's Speech, Thoughts, Effect on other characters, Actions, and Looks. You can remember this through the acronym STEAL (see the box on the next page for more explanation). Choose 3 characters from the novel and use the attached organizer to describe 4 of their personality traits and how they are exhibited through the novel.

Example: This example is taken from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. While reading, I notice that Dudley, Harry's cousin, is spoiled.

<u>TRAIT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE FROM NOVEL</u> (either direct quote or explain a plot event)	<u>How does this example prove the character trait you have chosen?</u>
Spoiled	"Dudley, meanwhile, was counting his presents. "Thirty-six," he said, looking up at his mother and father. "That's two less than last year."	This quote illustrates that Dudley is spoiled because not only is he counting his birthday presents, he isn't satisfied with the very large number he's been given. He is clearly used to getting everything he wants. His parents make it worse because they keep allowing it, which you can see in this scene when Mrs. Dursley promises Dudley to get him more presents at the zoo that day.

The 5 elements of characterization can be explained with the acronym STEAL. These are things to pay attention to when reading to gain understanding of a character:

Speech= what the character says

Thoughts= what a character thinks, believes, values, and what motivates them

Effect on Others= the relationships the character has and how the character treats other characters in the novel

Actions= how a character behaves, including how they react to people and events

Looks= the character's physical appearance, including clothes or accessories

**See the Qualities of a Character Handout on Google Classroom as well for help with character traits.

Assignment #2: Your Favorite Setting

Almost all the events in the novel take place at one location - Rake Field. As the novel says, "No piece of ground was more revered than The Field. Not even the cemetery."

- Choose a setting that is as important to you as the football field is to the characters in Bleachers. On a regular-sized sheet of paper, draw that setting to illustrate what you love about that place. Your drawing should be colored and detailed.
- Then, write a one page reflection where you explain what this setting means to you. You should consider a description/imagery of the setting, who/what you associate with that place, and stories that show what you love about it.

Student's Name _____

Character's Name: _____

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